CLOSED SHELF

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U.S. Imperialists Must Admit the Criminal Acts of Intrusion and Espionage They Committed against The Democratic People's Republic of Korea by Sending Their Armed Spy Ship and Apologize for Them And Assure That They Will Not Repeat Such Acts

Home and Foreign Reporters Meet Crewmen of "Pueblo," U.S. Imperialist Armed Spy Ship

A press conference was held on September 12 at the request of correspondents from many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America who came to our country to attend the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the crew of the "Pueblo," the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship, which was seized on January 23 by the self-defence measure of the Navy of the heroic Korean People's Army while intruding deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and conducting aggression and espionage acts.

Prior to the press conference, nearly 80 reporters from 34 countries and personages concerned looked round and photographed the specific intelligence collection requirements, records showing the positions of intrusion into the territorial waters of the D.P.R.K. and the navigational plot and other exhibits proving the criminal acts of the "Pueblo."

At the five-hour-long press conference the crew of the "Pueblo" answered in detail the questions of concern put by journalists. Correspondents and observers attending the press conference unanimously denounced hatefully the aggressive acts of U.S. imperialism and were all moved at the humanitarian treatment accorded by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the crew of the "Pueblo" despite their unpardonable crimes.

Follows questions and answers exchanged at the press conference: (KCNA)

CHAIRMAN: We now declare the press conference open. This press conference is being held at the request of many foreign correspondents who have come to our country to attend the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Present at this press conference are correspondents of Polish News Agency "PAP"; Hungarian newspaper **"Nepszabadsag,"** organ of Socialist Workers' Party; Italian newspaper **"Unita,"** organ of the Italian Communist Party; Japan's **Kyodo News Agency; "Asahi Shimbun"; "Yomiuri Shimbun"**; and **"Mainichi Shimbun"**; New York **"Guardian"; Togo Press; Togo Radio Station;** Gambian newspaper **"Outlook"; Chad News Agency;** and the Indian newspaper **"Socialist Congressman."**

Also present here are members of **the International Organization of Journalists; the United Arab Republic State Information Service; the Ministry of Information of the Iraqi Republic; the Ministry of Information of the Syrian Arab Republic; the Ministry of Information of the Somalian Republic; the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization; the Afro-Asian Democratic Lawyers Association** and many international organizations and social organizations of various countries including **the Arab International Trade Union.**

Also on hand are special correspondents of **the Soviet APN News Agency** and the **"Akahata,"** central organ of the Communist Party of Japan. Besides this press conference is also attended by correspondents of the daily **Rodong Shinmoon** and other home newspapers, as well as correspondents of the **Korean Central News Agency** and **the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee.** Men of the press of various foreign embassies in our country are also present.

Twenty delegates selected from the "Pueblo" crew are taking part in this press conference. Commanding officer Lloyd Mark Bucher is going to introduce each of the 20 delegates.

Commander BUCHER, Commanding Officer: Twenty members of the crew of the USS "Pueblo" including ship's officers and senior oceanographer and 13 enlisted men representing a cross-section of the various departments of the ship are here as conferees. They were selected unanimously by the entire crew. I will now introduce those who represent "Pueblo":

LT Edward R. Murphy, executive officer, age 31, from McKinleyville, California;

LT Stephen R. Harris, research officer, age 30, from Melrose, Massachusetts;

LTJG F. Carl Schumacher, Jr., operations officer, age 25, from St. Louis, Missouri;

ENS Timothy L. Harris supply officer, age 23, from Jacksonville, Florida;

CWO Gene. H. Lacy, engineering officer, age 37, from Seattle, Washington;

Mr. Dunnie R. Tuck, oceanographer, age 31, from Richmond, Virginia;

PO1 Charles B. Law Jr., age 27, from Tacoma, Washington;

PO1 Russel J. Blansett, age 35, from Orange, California;

PO1 Lawrence W. Mack, age 34, from Detroit, Michigan;

PO1 Herman P. Baldridge, age 37, from Carthage, Missouri;

PO1 Michael T. Barrett, age 31, from Kalamazoo, Michigan;

PO1 James D. Layton, age 26, from Binghamton, New York;

PO1 Francis J. Ginther, age 25, from Pottsville, Pennsylvania;

PO2 Donald R. McClarren, age 33, from Johnstown, Pennsylvania;

PO2 Wayne D. Anderson, age 25, from Waycross, Georgia;

PO3 Ralph McClintock, age 24, from Milton, Massachusetts;

PO3 Willie C. Bussell, age 22, from Hopkinsville, Kentucky;

SN Stephen P. Ellis, age 26, from Culver City, California;

SN Ramon Rosales, age 20, from El Paso, Texas;

and I am Commander Lloyd Mark Bucher, commanding officer, age 39, from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Before the general questioning begins, on behalf of the entire crew body, I would like to greet all of the reporters and correspondents present here, all of you who represent so many countries and so many news media.

Thank you for taking the time to attend.

We sincerely hope that the reporters present here will report our answers accurately and sympathetically.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Now that the press conference has been attended by many foreign correspondents who speak different languages we put your written questions together according to the contents and let the "Pueblo" crew answer them so as to facilitate the proceeding of our press conference smoothly.

Now let's come to the first question.

QUESTION: What sort of ship is the "Pueblo?" And what activities was it engaged in in the East Sea of Korea? Do you feel repentant of the espionage acts you have committed? (the daily **Rodong Shinmoon, the Pyongyang Shinmoon, "Akahata"** special correspondent, Japanese jounalists' delegation, **"Unita"** correspondent and Togo information delegation)

ANSWER: —Commander BUCHER, Commanding Officer—

The "Pueblo" was designed and built as an intelligence gathering ship, which operated under the cover of an oceanographic research ship. "Pueblo" was commissioned in May of 1967 in Bremerton, Washington and commenced operations in September of the same year. Upon arrival in Japan I was informed that the first operations of the ship would be conducted in the coastal waters of the East Sea of Korea.

As mentioned, "Pueblo" was built as an intelligence collection ship and our capabilities extended to three principle areas. First we were capable of collecting electromagnetic intelligence, including the interception of radar and conventional radio signals. Special equipment such as superheterodyne receivers and oceanographic equipments were installed for this purpose. A special detachment of 30 men under LT HARRIS were also aboard for electronic intelligence. Secondly, we were capable of making visual and photographic intelligence of targets of military interest. Thirdly, we were capable of making oceanographic measurements and had two oceanographers assigned aboard who could take oceanic condensity, salinity, temperatures and plankton population measurements of military interest.

For the operation to be conducted in the East Sea of Korea we were assigned for specific tasks, first we were to determine the naval activities of the Korean People's Army. Secondly we were to determine the electromagnetic activities of the Korean People's Army including all radar signals intercepted. Thirdly, we were to determine the reaction of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the presence of an intelligence collection ship, such as ours, which was operating within their coastal waters. Lastly we were to

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Commanding Officer Lloyd Mark Bucher of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" o f the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces jumped up on his chair at the close of the press conference and called upon correspondents there to help the crew of the spy ship realize their ardent desire, denouncing the U.S. Government.

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report the discovery of anything new which would be of military interest to the U.S. naval operations.

Should any of these missions be successfully accomplished they would be of military value to U.S. naval operations.

During our preparations for this operation in Yokosuka I instructed my executive officer, LT MURPHY, to insure that he had all the necessary charts on board for navigating the coastal waters of the East Sea of Korea.

I instructed my operations officer, LTJG SCHUMACHER, to insure that we had all the necessary and proper identification codes carried on board.

Lastly, I instructed all officers to read the intelligence material available on the naval forces of the Korean People's Army which was available from COMNAVFOR JAPAN

On 5 January 1968 I received orders from Admiral Frank L. Johnson, to proceed from Yokosuka via Sasebo and Tsushima Straits to conduct operations in the East Sea of Korea between latitudes 39 degrees and 42 degrees north.

Four primary areas of interest were assigned. We arrived at the first area of interest, CHONGJIN, on 16 January and made many intrusions of the sovereign territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in that area while detecting about 30 radars. The next area of interest where we arrived on 17 January was SONGJIN, where we again made many intrusions of the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and once again we intercepted about 30 radars in this area. The next area of interest was the suspected submarine base at MAYANGDO where we arrived on 20 January. We failed to sight or confirm any submarines in this area although we intruded the Democratic People's Republic of Korean territorial waters many times in this area in order to make ourselves sure. The last area of interest was WONSAN where we arrived on 22 January and commenced operations. On the morning of 23 January I moved the ship to a point well within the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and stopped at about 10:00 and lay to and commenced making electronic intelligence gathering activities. We had been in that area for about 2½ hours when units of the Korean People's Army Navy appeared and ordered us to heave to. I attempted to ignore these orders until a party of Korean soldiers attempted to come aboard at which time I started my engines and thought to make toward open sea making a top speed of over 10 knots. The naval units of the Korean People's Army easily overtook my vain efforts to escape and once again ordered me to 'heave to.' I answered by firing my main battery of machine guns at them. In the insuing gun battle one of my men was killed and several others wounded. We were captured at a point well within the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at a point 7.6 miles from the Island of YO DO. This point will be described more vividly by my navigator, LT MURPHY. I should mention that during the entirety of the operation we detected about 130 radars and photographed several commercial ships as well as one naval unit.

Immediately following our capture we attempted to deny the true purpose of our operation. However, we could not do so for long when confronted with the huge amount of evidence captured with us, both documentary and other papers.

Since then we have all sincerely confessed our great crimes and have asked the Korean people to forgive us and treat us leniently.

We have come to realize the basic moral wrong that attaches to the conduct of espionage of any kind.

We realize that spying is completely unacceptable behavior for the people of any nation.

ANSWER: —LT STEPHEN R. HARRIS, Research Officer—As research officer I was in charge of a special detachment of 30 men whose primary task it was to assist the commanding officer in his efforts to collect intelligence from received electronics signals.

I was directly ordered by the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander Naval Forces Japan to perform this task and to submit logs and recordings of the received electronic signals and submit them to the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C. and the Pacific Command Electronic Intelligence Center in Japan for detailed technical analysis. Specifically, we listened with special sensitive radar receiving sets to intercept the radars of the Korean People's Army in order to determine the locations of radar sites along the Korean coast. Also these radar signals would tell us the locations and presence of naval vessels and other units of the Korean People's Army. As I believe the commanding officer just mentioned we intercepted more than 130 radar signals during our mission. I was also assisted by two men who had some knowledge of the Korean language and we monitored various communications signals of the Korean People's Army such as a voiceradio telephone, Morse code, and radio teletypewriter transmissions. These transmissions were monitored in an attempt to determine what military information was being exchanged by radio between units of the Korean People's Army. One other part of my task which I inadvertently omitted at the beginning was that I was to submit a written report at the end of our mission to the Director of the Naval Security Group. This report was to have contained a summary of all the electronic data we had collected. This data would include for example the frequencies in use, the modes of operations of equipment and the time of transmission. Shortly after our capture, I seemed to realize the evil nature of what we had done. I realized this because it was obvious to the entire world that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has no intention of launching an attack on the United States of America many thousands of miles away. I feel deeply sorry for what we have done but since we are operating under orders as military men our Government should accept the moral responsibility for what we have done. Thank you very much.

ANSWER: —LTJG F. C. SCHUMACHER, Jr., Operations Officer— As mentioned by the commanding officer one of our primary task was to gather visual intelligence while in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United States Navy was interested in information about the Korean naval forces and about the unusual features of the eastern coastline of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to increase its information of the Korean People's Army on the one hand and of the geographical terrain and industrial complexes of Korea on the other. To satisfy these requirements the "Pueblo" was equipped with several sets of highpowered binoculars as well as precision cameras with tele-photo lenses, recognition publications useful for classifying what we had observed. During the operation I tried very hard to satisfy fully the requirements of our superiors with each ship that we saw we tried to identify it, as to nationality, type, photograph it, record its course and speed and estimated destination. We sighted over 20 merchant or fishing ships but only one naval vessel with the result that I was quite concerned that the mission might be considered a failure. I informed the Captain and urged him to be bolder in bringing the ship closer to shore in the hopes of sighting more naval activity. In our efforts of coastal espionage we did not meet with too much success. Many times we approached close to the shore in order to conduct this espionage but to avoid detection and identification by the Korean People's Army we would again speed out to sea. On one occasion I did sight some smoke from an industrial complex which I thought might be of interest, but by and large our efforts at coastal espionage were frustrated by our fear of being detected. All of the visual information we gathered together with any photographs we took would be reported by me directly to the Chief of Naval Operations via the Commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet; Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and the Commander in Chief, Pacific Command. Thank you.

ANSWER: —DUNNIE R. TUCK, Senior Civilian Oceanographer— I, along with one other civilian oceanographer, Mr. Harry Iredale, III, composed the oceanographic working party aboard the USS "Pueblo." We served a two-fold purpose in performing our assigned mission. Our initial function was to conduct a routine pilot oceanographic survey in the East Sea of the eastern coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This study entailed the collection of the water temperature, salinity data at various selected sites dependent on the position of the ship. We were to sample the waters between the latitudes of 39° and 42° N at all one-half degree intervals. Once in the operation area the ship proceeded north along the east coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea allowing us to take our oceanographic stations. From the northern terminus, the ship cruised south, once again along the coast. At points of particular interest such as Chongjin, Songjin, Mayang *do* the "Pueblo" intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea several occasions and allowed us to conduct further oceanographic studies. In total, 20 stations were taken. Most of them were lying in the waters of the three previously mentioned locations, From the collected and assimilated data sound velocity profiles could be prepared for later analysis and records of the U.S. Navy. These profiles would eventually be forwarded by our office to the Department of the Navy which could employ the material in future fleet operations in submarine patrols. The second reason for our presence on board the "Pueblo" was that of deception. By conducting oceanographic research overtly, it was assumed that such innocent-looking operations would render cover to the primary mission of the ship which has just been discussed fully by Captain and concerned personnel. Thank you.

QUESTION: What do you know of the purpose of the U.S. Government that ordered the "Pueblo" to conduct espionage acts? (Daily Rodong Shimmoon correspondent, "Akahata" special correspondent)

ANSWER: —Commander BUCHER, Commanding Officer— As I mentioned earlier "Pueblo" was designed as an intelligence gathering ship. The purpose of "Pueblo"'s operations was to collect intelligence of military value to U.S. naval operations.

QUESTION: What would you do as an American citizen, to a ship of a socialist nationality if it were captured by the U.S. authorities while conducting a similar mission, as the "Pueblo," against the United States? (A delegate of the International Organization of Journalists)

ANSWER: —ENS HARRIS, Supply Officer— Every country has the right to exercise its sovereign power to protect its territorial waters. The "Pueblo" was conducting espionage while in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Therefore, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exercised its sovereign right to capture the USS "Pueblo." Therefore, I think the United States would exercise its sovereign power to capture a ship operating in its territorial waters just as did the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the "Pueblo" incident.

QUESTION: Is there any other ship, besides the "Pueblo," that has been assigned to a similar mission? (Japanese journalists delegation)

ANSWER: —Commander BUCHER, Commanding Officer— Two other U.S. naval units, the "Banner" and the "Palm Beach" are identical in design to the "Pueblo" The USS "Banner" is homeported in Yokosuka and had conducted opereations in the East and West seas of Korea, in the Sea of Japan along the coastal waters of the Soviet Union and in the coastal waters of China in the East China Sea.

Future "Banner" operations were to be conducted as well in the East Sea of Korea. USS "Palm Beach" is homeported in the Atlantic and as such I know nothing of their operations. Thank you.

QUESTION: You admitted in your confessions that you intruded deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Is that true? How did the evidence proving your entry into the territorial waters come into the possession of the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea? ("Akahata" special correspondent and the Japanese journalists delegation)

ANSWER: —LT MURPHY, Executive Officer— I am the executive officer and navigator on board the USS "Pueblo." My name is Lt. Edward Renz Murphy, Jr. May I ask if I am loud enough for the English speaking delegates? I will have to turn my back, but just tell me if you cannot hear me.

The commanding officer, Captain Bucher has already discussed our navigation from Sasebo to the coastal waters of Korea. On this chart here is shown the track of the USS "Pueblo" for departure from Sasebo on 11 January 1968.

Our track followed our intentions to pass through the Tsushima Straits and to arrive off the east coast of the East Bay of Korea where we arrived on the 12th of January. As the Captain has already discussed, our navigation was along the coast about 30-40 miles out generally, northward to the Songjin area where we arrived on 16 January 1968. We proceeded south, then, on the 17th of January closer in towards the coast. Our intrusions which are confirmed by the charts and records captured on board by the Navy of the Korean People's Army are clearly shown on this working map. As you see on the working map there are 17 intrusions in all. Two of these intrusions were actually committed on the 15th on our way north. Our first intrusion was at a point 8.1 miles from Yongdae *gap*, in position North 40° 23' east 129° 13'. Our second intrusion again on the 15th was at a point 11.2 miles from Orang *Dan*. This position was at North 41° 25' East 130° 3'. Our next area of intrusion was, if you will pardon me, they are so closely congested, I will just read them from north to south. These are all in the vicinity of Kaltan. Our first intrusion was 7.2 miles from Kaltan in position North 41° 50' East 130° 6'. Next, 8.3 miles from Kaltan, this was in position North 41° 50' East 130° 7.5'. The next intrusion which was one of the original six intrusions mentioned by us would have been a point 9.8 miles from Kaltan in position North 41° 51' East 139° 10'. Next, 9.3 miles from Kaltan in position North 41° 48.5' East 130° 8'. The next intrusion was at a point 9.3 miles from Kaltan North 41°47' East 130° 6'. It was at this position where two times are recorded, first being on the 16th at 23:42 INDIA, second being on the 17th at 09:50 INDIA. INDIA is a time zone description. INDIA time is local time in the Korean waters. The next intrusion was 10.15 miles from Kaltan in position at North 41° 46.5' East 130° 07.5'. Next, 10.5 miles from Kaltan in position Noth 41° 46' East 130°07'. The next intrusion was at a point 10 miles from Sosura *dong* in position North 41°45' East 130° 05'.

The next intrusion was at a point 11.1 miles from Komalsan *dan*, in position North 41° 37.5' East 130° 01.5'. The next intrusion I have already mentioned off of Orang *dan*, so I will continue down here on the 18th. This is on the 18th of January 1968 in a position 10.75 miles from Nan *do*. This position is North 40°28.1' East 129° 36.7'. The second intrusion in this area was 11.3 miles from Nan *do* in position North 40° 27.3' East 129° 30'. The next area of intrusion I have already mentioned, this was one of the 15th. Our next intrusion was on the 21st of January 1968 at a point 10 miles from Mayang *do* in position North 39° 50' East 128° 18'. Our next intrusion, one of the original intrusions disclosed was on the 21st of January at a point 8.2 miles from Ansong *gap* in position North 39 ° 48.9' East 128° 01.9'. Our last intrusion and the point where we were captured by the Navy of the Korean People's Army was at a point 7.6 miles from Yo *do* in position North 39° 17.4' East 127° 49'.

Our navigation and our many intrusions deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are clearly shown and confirmed by the facts, the material evidences and our frank confessions.

Although our original confessions disclosed only 6 intrusions there are many more.

Eleven more intrusions have been verified by Loran Charlie records maintained by us during our navigation. And these are not all.

Although we were faithful enough to CINCPACFLT instructions 003120.24/Change 2 of February 1966 regarding shipboard reconnaissance to intrude continually, if possible, the territorial waters of North Korea, this instruction orders the conduct of surface-sea reconnaissance which we conducted, specifically subparagraph b. 2 (a).

This specifically directs that surface patrols within the 12 mile claimed territorial seas of China, USSR, USSR-held territory and other sovereign nations' 12-mile claimed territorial waters shall not be entered without prior approval of higher authority. In addition the Indonesian seas shall not be penetrated without prior authorization from CINCPACFLT.

Surface patrols to the three-mile limit off North Korea and CHICOM-held islands in the Paracels are authorized. Since CINCPACFLT has higher authority than COMNAVFORJAPAN the latter's 13 miles restriction had no bounding power to us.

So you see we only carried out our instructions from higher authority and implemented the policy of our higher command.

It seems that those who ordered our mission are not cloaking themselves with the responsibility which is theirs.

This is obvious otherwise we would not be here today, nearly one year since our capture, away from our families, our friends and our loved ones. Thank you.

ANSWER: —PO1 LAW— As the assistant to the navigator and the senior enlisted man in the navigation department, I am responsible for the many facts of the navigation department and any acts derived from this department. So I feel that I am well qualified to speak on the subject of navigational plans and the resulting intrusions.

Our navigational plan was to depart Sasebo, Japan on 11 January 1968 and proceed north through the Tsushima Straits passing Ullong *do* and arriving at the southernmost boundary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's eastern coast. We were then to proceed northward along the coast maintaining a

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distance of 30 to 40 miles from the coast to the northernmost. We were to arrive at the northernmost boundary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 16 January.

Upon arrival at this point we were to then proceed south on a southernly course, arriving back at the southernmost boundary on or about 27 January 1968.

It was on this southern leg of our voyage that we intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 17 occasions, which I will not go into, as the navigator, LT MURPHY, has covered quite thoroughly.

These intrusions were all determined from entries in the ship's position log of the "Pueblo" which was maintained by myself.

These intrusions are verified and substantiated by many other intrusions determined from the Loran record book of the "Pueblo" which was also maintained by myself.

As these positions were determined by the use of our Loran, a piece of very high precision equipment manufactured especially for the Navy, they are both undeniable and unquestionable.

I would at this time like to express my deep repentance for taking part in these crimes and I honestly hope that we can be forgiven by the peace-loving people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for our parts in these crimes.

Our most ardent desires are to be allowed to return home to our loved ones, families and friends we are all missing very much in the very very near future.

I also want to thank the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, also the Korean People's Army for the humane treatment that I have received during my detention which has made this period of mental anguish almost bearable.

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, I thank you very much.

QUESTION: What was the position of the "Pueblo" when the naval vessels of the Korean People's Army approached your ship? Was it on the high seas or in the territorial waters? (New York "Guardian"; and "Unita" correspondents, Togo information delegation and the Japanese journalists delegation)

ANSWER: —LTJG SCHUMACHER, Operations Officer— As the navigator and Law have already commented on our intrusions, I would like to comment on this question only briefly, because I think that it is an important question.

Just prior to our capture, we determined our position by radar and found while we were 15 miles or so from the nearest land we were only 7.6 miles from the Island of YO DO, which was considerably closer.

The 15 mile measurement was from our position to the City of Wonsan.

It was then that we realized that we had been caught and tried to escape to the high seas, but obviously in vain.

From this I think it should be clear that the USS "Pueblo" was captured in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the naval forces of the Korean People's Army.

I hope that this answers this question. Thank you.

QUESTION: What do you think of the reaction of the U.S. Government and the American public to the press conference held last time with the commanding officer and some of the crew? (The correspondents of the **Korean Central News Agency** and **Minju Chosun** and the staff member of the German Embassy in our country)

ANSWER: —CWO LACY, Engineering Officer—As we learned through recent letters received that several of our families have received transcripts of the last press conference from the Navy Department.

The families are happy to know that we are being treated well, receiving regular meals, medical treatment and getting mails.

We have no knowledge of any reaction of our Government to the last press conference. However, since we are still not repatriated we feel sure that it has had little or no reaction.

The entire crew, however, expressed their unanimous wishes at the last press conference and also expressed their ardent desires. Thank you.

QUESTION: Commanding officer, how much do you think the U.S. Government values your personal fate? (Hungarian journalist)

ANSWER: —Commander BUCHER, Commanding Officer— I, together with the rest of those being held here in detention in Korea are either military men or defense department employees.

I am confident and know that our Government is morally required to accept the responsibility for our criminal acts.

We conducted those acts under orders and as such I am confident that our Government must value our fate and must ultimately take the required action to see us returned to our motherland. Thank you.

QUESTION: Why do you think the United States Government still does not apologize to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the "Pueblo's" criminal acts? What do you think of the recent statement of the U.S. State Department spokesman, that they have nothing to apologize for the "Pueblo's" entry into the territorial waters? (The correspondents of **Pyongyang Times, New York "Guardian"** and **"Unita"** correspondent, Togo information delegation)

ANSWER: —ENS HARRIS, Supply Officer— Our intrusions and espionage have been proven by the undisputable facts, the material evidence which is now in the hands of the Korean People's Army and our sincere confessions to such activities.

In face of the overwhelming facts it is difficult for me to understand why the U.S. has not apologized.

There is no doubt that we stand guilty of espionage and intrusion. This cannot be refuted by anyone.

I personally feel the political factors in the United States are the reason the U.S. has not apologized. Why the political factors influence the settlement of this problem is unknown to me.

What I do know is that we have been here almost eight months and the misery and the uncertainty of the future still plagues us and our families.

We are only military men trying to the best of our ability to execute orders given to us by our Government.

The espionage we were ordered to do is a crime against any sovereign state and cannot be condoned by any country. And as the American people know espionage is a very serious crime in the United States.

Our most anxious desire is to return home and to end this sorrow endured by our families.

The way for us to return home is for our Government to accept their responsibilities in this matter and apologize for the espionage and the intrusions. When our Government does this we will be released.

Thank you very much.

ANSWER: —PO2 ANDERSON— Since our only chance of ever returning home depends entirely on whether the United States Government accepts its responsibility and apologizes to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea this question is naturally one which is of utmost importance to us.

It is also one which we discuss among ourselves very very often.

I personally feel that there are probably some political factors being taken into consideration by our Government.

What I am unable to understand is why these factors should take precedence over the lives and well-being of the "Pueblo" crew.

I have accepted the responsibility for the part I played in the espionage activities of the "Pueblo."

I cannot express fully in words the remorse and repentance I feel for what I have done.

I can only try to demonstrate my sincerity in my daily life.

All that remains is for those who ordered me here to accept their larger portion of the responsibility for our crimes.

I feel that they have this responsibility not only toward the "Pueblo" crew but also toward our families at home.

After so many long months o detention our longing for home and loved ones has not lessened but rather has become all the more difficult to bear.

There are those among us who have children at home whom they have never seen.

There are also those who were married just prior to our departure from the United States and they have had precious little time to spend with their new wives.

How tragic it will be if we have to spend many long years in prison in a foreign country or possibly never see our loved ones again.

It is my firm belief that no matter how long it might be delayed the final solution to this case will be the same.

I believe that if the United States Government will apologize to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and assure that such acts will never happen again we will be repatriated.

Why increase the suffering of all those concerned by delaying any longer?

Thank you very much.

QUESTION: What wishes do you want to make to Johnson, the U.S. Government and your families and to the press of the American public? (The correspondents of **the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee, New York "Guardian"** correspondent, Japanese journalists delegation, **"Unita"** correspondent and Togo information delegation)

ANSWER: — PO1 MACK — The most fervent wish I could make of President Johnson and also my most ardent desire is to be repatriated and rejoin my wife and family in the bosom of the fatherland.

Besides my wife Kathleen, I have four children: Glenn, age 10; John, age 9; Daniel, age 5; and Karen, age 2.

Although I am a criminal confessed of espionage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has treated me humanely in spite of my towering crimes.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has allowed me to correspond with my family and assure my wife and children of my good health.

I have been allowed to send photos of myself to my wife and family in the United States to prove to them that I have not been mistreated in anyway.

In spite of these comforting assurances I am sure that my wife Kathleen is suffering tremendous heartache because of this incident.

I feel sure that my wife has to answer my children on numerous occasions when they ask when is their Daddy coming home. I personally don't know how I could answer that question if I were in my wife's place, but I feel that the question burns into her heart each time she has to listen to it.

For myself this period of separation has caused more longing than I have ever known in my life.

My thoughts and my heart are forever with my wife and my family back in the United States.

I sincerely hope that this affair is ended soon, not only for myself but for my family and the other innocent dependents of the crew members of the United States Ship "Pueblo."

I feel that the families of the members of the "Pueblo" have paid a tremendous price in terms of heartache because of this affair.

The families of the crew members have worked very hard and very long for our repatriation. I feel they deserve an end to this misery.

I speak for every member in the crew when I say my most fervent wish to the President of the United States, the members of the press and the people of the United States of America is that I be allowed to go home soon and that this matter is settled justly. Thank you.

ANSWER:—PO3 MCCLINTOCK — I am Petty Officer Third Class McClintock.

My most ardent desire is to return to my country and to my home in Massachusetts and to be reunited once again with my widowed grief-stricken mother, my worried family and my dear friends who I have not seen for a very long time.

Oh how I long to walk down the quiet shaded streets of my hometown, to swim again in the rolling surf of old Cape Cod Bay and to indulge in the sumptuous feast of one of Mom's famous apple pies.

Since my capture I have made a complete and sincere apology to the Korean people for the crimes I have committed.

I have come to see the errors I have made in the past and now if I may realize my most ardent desire I wish to return to school in the United States to learn a skill that will enable me to do something for the betterment of mankind.

Now all I ask is that the correspondents present here today make our desires known to the people of the United States.

The desire of the crew of the United States Ship "Pueblo" is simply to return to our beloved homeland and to once again be reunited with our mothers and fathers, our wives and children and our anxious friends.

I swear on my life that if I am ever allowed to return to my home and family I will never again commit such a naughty crime as espionage against such a peace-loving people as these.

Thank you very much for your help.

QUESTION: What will you do if you are released and go home? And what will you do if you are given the same mission by the U.S. authorities after you return home? (**"Akahata"** special correspondent and delegations of the Togo information and Japaneses journalists)

ANSWER:—PO1 GINTHER— If we are able to return home my plans are to become a minister.

I have come to realize what I have done is wrong and I am deeply repentant for my crimes.

I know this could be my only aim in life so I can help others live in peace and happiness.

If I am given the same mission after we return home by the U.S. authorities, I know I wouldn't be able to do such a thing again because of my deep repentance and the religious views I have acquired wouldn't permit me to do so.

I hope and pray that the United States will apologize soon so we will be able to return home and I will be able to persue these plans to enter into the ministry. Thank you.

QUESTION: How are you treated here? (Hungarian journalist, **"Akahata"** special correspondent, **"Unita"** correspondent, Japanese journalists delegation and Indian

(Continued on page 4)

Foreign reporters at the press conference with the crew members of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" which was held at their request.

(Continued from page 3)

journalists)

ANSWER: —PO3 BUSSELL— Since my detention here my life has been very good. I never thought as prisoners we'd be treated as nice as we have been in view of the fact that we have committed espionage against the sovereign state of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by intruding into their territorial waters on many occasions.

But since our sincere repentance for our crimes and explaining that we were only carrying out the orders of our superiors, we have been given leniency of which I had never imagined.

In addition to the balanced diet and the daily necessities we are receiving we have been given recreation periods and the most enjoyable period for myself and my shipmates is our sports period. Because we are allowed to play the same games we played while we were in the States. We have a choice of three games. We play volleyball, kickball, basketball. And myself I like to play basketball. But no matter how at ease our lives are made here our desire to be home with our families and loved ones never leaves our minds as the days come and go. Our hearts just won't let us forget the love that we once knew. Our most ardent desire is that the United States Government will apologize and give assurance to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that such acts will not be repeated again so that we may be returned home to our families and loved ones in the very near future. Thank you very much.

ANSWER: —SN ELLIS— Our lives here, considering the crimes we have committed, are far beyond my imagination. When captured, at first I thought we would be living in a bare cell with no adequate living conditions. But on the contrary we have been given clean living facilities with daily necessities such as clean linen, shaves and showers. In the evening we are allowed free time in which we can play cards, chess, or listen to music. Also, once a week we are treated to a movie presentation in which we see a Korean feature film. I sincerely appreciate these movies because they are very entertaining and help alleviate some of the worries I have about my family. As you all know, myself and my shipmates have admitted to committing espionage activities against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We are all deeply repentant for these acts. However, it is only when the United States Government, under whose orders we were sent, apologizes for our crimes and assures that they will never happen again, that the "Pueblo" crew will be repatriated. I myself am 26 years old and the majority of my shipmates range between 20 and 25 years of age. None of us want to spend the rest of our lives in a foreign land away from our families and our loved ones. Although our life has been very good due to the generosity of the Korean Government we all are fervently hoping we will be returned to our families as soon as possible. It is my most ardent desire and the desire of all my shipmates that we will be returned home as soon as possible so that we can be back with our families once again. Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Is there any difference in the treatment between the officer and enlisted men? (Togo information delegation)

ANSWER: —LT MURPHY— Executive Officer— As you can plainly see the officers and enlisted men of the crew of the USS "Pueblo" are clad differently. Each of the officers lives by himself in his own room, whereas the enlisted men live together, four or eight to a room. Our meals are also a little bit different from the enlisted men. We get hot milk daily and a few more grams of fresh fruit. But it should be said that essentially there is no difference between the humanitarian treatment accorded either of us by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

QUESTION: How is your health? (Japanese journalist delegation)

ANSWER: —PO1 BALDRIDGE—I would like to take this opportunity as medical representative of the "Pueblo" and say that we are all in good health. Our wounded received prompt medical care after capture and their wounds have healed with no complications. The medical staff conducts sick call for us here once a day where complaints such as colds, sore throats and infections are treated. The entire crew recently completed a very thorough physical examination conducted by a team of doctors and nurses. The results of this physical examination proved also that we are in very good health. Some members of the crew have even been visited by specialists such as an ophthalmologist for an eye case and a surgeon for the removal of one crewman's tonsils because of chronic tonsillitis. There is also a preventive medicine program in effect here which includes inoculations and medicines for prevention of various infectious disease, spray for rodent control and washing out our hands prior to meals with disinfectant. Although we are all in a state of very good health, as you can see or perhaps will see later today, we all have one fervent desire and that is to return to our dear families and wives whom we miss so much and we hope that our repatriation will be realized in the very near future.

ANSWER: —PO1 BARRET— I would also like to comment on the medical treatment provided us by the Korean People's Army.

First of all, let me say that it's beyond my expectations I thought that immediately after our capture I would be shot or die of some sort of ailment received in a cold, dingy building. However, this was not the case as you can plainly see.

All of us receive medical treatment whenever necessary. I personally have received a physical examination as mentioned already by petty officer first class Baldridge and the results show that I am in excellent health. I have been given a series of injections for skin rash and been treated for the flu. With all this care I'm receiving I don't believe I've anything to worry about as far as my health is concerned. In addition, the Korean People's Army has even gone so far as to provide several members of the crew with eyeglasses. What have we done to deserve all this treatment? We have committed crimes against their country, we have intruded upon their sovereignty and yet they continue to take care of us and maintain our bodies in the best possible health. I believe this results from the sincere apology and the assurance we have given that we will never commit such brazen-faced crimes and that they respect human life above anything else. For this treatment I am deeply moved and appreciative. I don't think I have to convince any of you that I am in perfect health. You can see this plainly for yourself. However, in a more serious vein I do wish that through this meeting with you today that I may assure the American people, my wife, my two beautiful children, my father, all of whom I miss and love terribly that despite the fact that we are far apart and our hearts are not together, that they need not worry about our health. The only thing lacking here are doctors and specialists to mend broken hearts and medicines to cure the grief and sadness that is prevalent among the crew because we are far apart from our families. These diseases are quite prevalent among the crew but they cannot be cured until we are reunited with our families and loved ones once again. In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to thank the Korean People's Army for having given us all these good medical care we have received and also for your interest in coming here today to try and help us in our trying predicament. Thank you very much.

QUESTION: For the solution of the repatriation problem of the "Pueblo" crew, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea claims that the U.S. Government should apologize for the ship's criminal acts and assure that such things will not be repeated again. Do you think it is justifiable and what will you do if the U.S. Government still refuses to do so? (the correspondents of the daily **Rodong Shinmoon** and **"Akahata"** special correspondent)

ANSWER: —LTJG SCHUMACHER, Operations Officer— The crimes committed by the "Pueblo" are proved by the facts themselves. These facts are simply that the "Pueblo" was designed and operated as an espionage ship and that on this mission it intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at many points. The evidence supporting these facts includes the documents and publications we had on board this espionage mission as well as the actual charts and records we used for navigation. These facts have also been proved by us, the participants in the crime on many occasions in the past and just now by the commanding officer, myself, and those who have spoken before me.

In view of these simple facts and considering that violation of territorial integrity is against international law, we, the crew of the "Pueblo" think the stand taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is just and reasonable. Further, we wish that those who say that the capture of the "Pueblo" was a violation of international law were here today at this press conference to see and hear for themselves the real facts. But most important, the stand taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides the only possibility for our longed-for repatriation and I and the rest of the crew of the "Pueblo" share as our ardent desire the cherished hope that this issue will be solved quickly so that we may return to our anxious families and our beloved country. Thank you.

ANSWER: —PO1 LAW— As the firm stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is well known throughout the world that if the United States Government does not admit, apologize and give assurance that such crimes as ours will never be repeated again, we will be punished according to the laws of this country which could include capital punishment. But we, as self-admitted criminals, can offer no excuses and must resign ourselves to accept these facts. But I would like to say that I hope from the bottom of my soul that as I have accepted my responsibility for my crimes I hope that the United States Government will accept their responsibilities to realize our repatriation to change all our dreams to reality, tearful eyes to cheerful smiles, and end this period of anguish that we and our families and loved ones are going through by being separated. Each night that I go to sleep I wish that this nightmare of loneliness, mental anguish and longing for our loved ones and our families who we miss very much would end the very next day, but that day has not arrived as yet. The foremost thought that is always on my mind is the desire to return home very, very soon, and also the dread of spending the rest of my life in a foreign country or even possibly having my life ended. I am sure that I am not alone with these thoughts as they are shared by all of us here and our families. I just hope from the bottom of my heart that the proper people will assume their due responsibilities and allow each of us to be returned to their families, friends, relatives that they miss very much by the time that the Christmas holidays roll around.

As I myself have been planning for quite some time to have marriage in the month of November this year, I would very much like to return home to my beloved fiancee and exchange vows with her.

I hope that you ladies and gentlemen of the press will understand these desires and my terrific longing to return home to become married as you can say what my fiancee would think if I was late for our wedding. Thank you very much.

QUESTION: What do you think of the U.S. policy of aggression against the people of the United Arab Republic and the other countries? What relations do you think the provocative acts of the "Pueblo" have with the acts of the USS "Liberty" that was involved in the aggression against the Arab countries in June 1967? (the information delegations of Iraq and United Arab Republic)

ANSWER: —Commander BUCHER, Commanding Officer— As a military man I am required to carry out the orders of my superiors.

I am not well aware of UAR or world affairs in general and therefore am not qualified to comment on the first part of that question.

I do not know of any connection between the "Liberty" and the "Pueblo."

The "Liberty" was or is assigned and operated in the Atlantic Fleet and I am not familiar with the operations conducted by the ships in that fleet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Now let me make a suggestion to the correspondents. We have still more written questions put by you before and during the press conference. But the press conference lasted for a long time and it's time for the "Pueblo" crew to have their lunch and we also would like to go and see how the "Pueblo" crew are getting along. So if you don't have any other questions, then we should like to close the press conference.

Guardian Correspondent: I'd like to say that I'm convinced that the "Pueblo" crew has been treated humanely here after hearing the testimony, the declarations of the members of the crew. It is quite evident from the testimony of the officers and men that they were violating the Korean territorial waters. I think the proof is irrefutable. And I would like to say that I agree with them that the U.S. Government, our Government, shirks moral responsibility for this. What I'd like to tell the members of the crew as the only American correspondent here is that I will do my best to convey their ideas, their aspirations to the people in the United States through our newspaper in New York. Thank you very much.

Commander BUCHER, Commanding Officer: Of the many remarks that have been made here today, I want to fully represent the feelings, the true feelings and aspirations of my crew members who are detained here with me in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for permitting us the opportunity to come before you correspondents and observers from many countries of the world and present our views as we see them.

There are just a few salient points which are appropriate.

First of all, the records and documents, our confessions and apology prove that the USS "Pueblo" did in fact commit espionage and that we did intrude the territorial waters of this country. Secondly, we did sincerely apologize for our crimes and have asked for leniency. Third, if our Government whose moral responsibility it is to be responsible for the acts of the soldiers and sailors within our armed forces who carry out their orders, if they do not accept that responsibility, then we feel certain that we will be brought to trial here and for some of us that could mean death and for others long terms of imprisonment. It has been almost eight months now since our capture and I personally feel that that is long enough to study the facts and take the necessary action to return us to our country. We earnestly ask what they would want us to do, if they were here and we were back home.

I do not ask this release from imprisonment particularly for myself as I am the commanding officer and have the lion's share of the responsibility for the acts of the "Pueblo." However, as has been mentioned, there are many in my crew who are in their very early 20s and have not had an opportunity to taste either the bitters or sweets of this life and it occurs to me that their responsibility is very minimal, consequently should not be called upon to remain here any longer.

All of us including myself, miss our families a great deal and we realize that our families are actually being punished by anything more heavily than ourselves because it is them who have to sit at home and wonder what is going to happen to us and how long it is going to take for a decision to be made.

Without question this is the most difficult thing for any of us to have to bear and that is the uncertainty day after long day of not knowing when action will be taken to settle this matter or if it will ever be taken.

I know that the Government of the United States of America will act responsibly and see us returned and I don't think it's unreasonable for me to ask that we be home by Christmas.

And finally, once again let me thank all of you for coming here to sit through this swelter with us and listen to our remarks and ask your questions. I regret that the time will not permit us to answer all of your questions, but that's one thing that does go on is time. I can only ask that you attempt to report our story accurately and sympathetically. It's a pretty simple story which doesn't need any frills, I don't think to make it a heartfelt one and one that can be grasped easily by any person in the world. We hope above all else that this story of ours which has been rather pathetic up to this point will in fact have a happy ending. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: We should like to close the press conference.

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After the press conference, the home and foreign reporters and observers called at the rooms of crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" and acquainted themselves with their living conditions.

The People's Korea

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